

Aristophanes' the nerds

May 23&24

Athens to Atherton. Greek to Geek.
The *Birds*, reformatted for the 21st century.



Aristophanes' the nerds

cast

Pete Endeavour	David Fifield
Dick Gaugetté/Thom Yorke	Stephen Sansom
Personal Assistant	Nicole Nomany
Tim Tereus/Nerd/Poet	Magellan J. Pfluke
Nerd/Baron/Chris Christie	Ted Kelting
Nerd/Thingy/Hillary Clinton	Rebecca Autumn Sansom
Bill O'Reilly	Scott Arcenas
Iris Bequick	Sienna Kang
The Nerds	Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne
	Lizzy Ten-Hove

crew

Director	Lizzy Ten-Hove
Producer	Alyson Melzer
Production Assistant	Stephen Sansom
Stage Manager	Clare Jaymes
Costumes	Cai Redmond
Choreography	Kate Kreindler
Videography	Mark Pyzyk
Treasurer	Scott Weiss
Visuals	Alyson Melzer
	Rebecca Autumn Sansom
	Stephen Sansom
	Lizzy Ten-Hove

director's note

Aristophanes' *Birds* was first produced at Athens' City Dionysia in 414 BCE. A whimsical and often surreal tale of underdogs (underbirds?) coming out on top, the play follows two disillusioned Athenians, Euelpides and Peisetairos, as they journey to the kingdom of the birds and lead their feathered friends to victory over the Olympian gods.

Fast-forward around 2400 years to Silicon Valley, where we are surrounded by Twitter accounts, Angry Birds, and cloud computing, add Stanford Classics in Theater's hallmark style of bringing ancient comedy to bear on current events, and the *Nerds* is born.

Meet Pete and Dick, two Wall Street suits fed up with finance after the 2008 financial crisis. They've travelled across the continent to meet Tim Tereus, a former senator who now lives the good life in Silicon Valley, surrounded by nerds of every stripe. They have a bold idea: if the nerds combine forces and seize control of the nation's data, the government will be forced to capitulate. The nerds will be kings.

Like all SCIT productions, the *Nerds* began among the graduate students of the Stanford Classics Department on a single weekend of frenzied translating, creative collaboration, and the odd dance party. Since then, a group drawn from throughout the Stanford community—and further afield—has honed the script and brought it to life.

Special thanks are due to Oren Stevens, director of last year's *Casina*, who helped immensely with the early stages of the production. Olympian accolades to Alyson Melzer, producer extraordinaire, and to Stephen Sansom, SCIT president and production assistant—none of this would have happened without you. Clare Jaymes travelled all the way from Cincinnati to stage manage for us—thank you! And to the rest of the cast and crew: you are untouchable. System set—you've got it on lock.

Lizzy Ten-Hove

about scit

Stanford Classics in Theater has been bringing productions of ancient drama to Silicon Valley since 2009. Our aim is to promote understanding of and engagement with classical theater through original research, rehearsal, and production. We aim to bring together students and community members of various backgrounds and interests. If you're interested in getting involved next year, let us know—we'd love to have you! You can visit scit.stanford.edu for more details.

cast & crew

Scott Arcenas Bill O'Reilly

4th year PhD, Classics

Scott would like to take this opportunity to announce his candidacy for the 2016 G.O.P. nomination. He attributes his political ambitions to his first role in SCIT, Mitt Romney in 2012's *Women on Top*. Arcenas, 2016.

Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne Nerd

5th year PhD, Classics

Jacqueline is delighted to return to the stage after many phalloi-free years. She is starting to see her graduate career in terms of a ring composition that begins and closes with her singing the very dirty SCIT lyrics that she helped write before friends, family, and faculty. If you see her mouthing something like the word 'watermelon' in this performance, it means she's forgotten the words.

David Fifield Pete Endeavour

2nd year PhD, Computer Science (Berkeley)

In his dread Berkelian lair David whiles away the lonely hours. The dial in his freezer goes all the way up to 6, but he generally finds that a setting of 2 does him well enough. He may not be a classicist but he knows what a genitive case is, damn it.

Clare Jaymes Stage Manager

Theater professional

Clare Jaymes is a stage manager hailing from Cincinnati, Ohio! She is nerding out about being a part of this production and getting to spend some time in Cali while making new friends!

Sienna Kang Iris Bequick

4th year PhD, Classics

Name the five best rappers of all time. Think about it— Sienna. Sienna. Sienna. Sienna. I spit hot fire. I am the cat that killed curiosity. I drink your milkshake.

Ted Kelting Nerd/Baron/Chris Christie

2nd year PhD, Classics

Ted is a second year Ph.D. student in Classics, studying language and literature. But you already knew that. What you want to know is how Ted could possibly top his command performance as Buster in last year's SCIT performance, *Casina*. With magic, that's how.

Kate Kreindler Choreography

7th year PhD, Classics

While the rest of the cast and crew were going through tech week, Kate was going through tech week *and* defending her dissertation. No power in the 'verse can stop her.

Alyson Melzer Producer

1st year PhD, Classics

Originating in west Philadelphia, a majority of Alyson's adolescence was spent in various recreational facilities, hanging out and cavorting about, and participating in intramural basketball. On one occasion several ruffians began stirring up disorder in her community: she fell into a minor scuffle which gave her mother a fright she could not bear, so she determined that Alyson would be relocating to the residence of her aunt and uncle in Bel Air.

Nicole Nomany Personal Assistant

Senior, Archeology

This is Nicole's third year in SCIT. She is not an intern. Remember that.

Magellan J. Pfluke Tim Tereus/Nerd/Poet

Junior, History

Magellan is an undergraduate in the History department who likes to put bird documentaries on mute and play music over them to see how it all syncs up. Being a part of *The Nerds* has inspired him to try the same thing with documentaries on Silicon Valley innovators, though he fears they may lack the sublime quality of motion that separates hobby from insanity. When not with SCIT, Magellan is doing comedy in other forms all over campus, and he'll tell you where if you ask either very nicely or very cruelly.

Cai Redmond Costumes

Senior, Classics

When Cai is not dutifully studying up on her Greek or Latin, she likes to dress up as fictional characters, which has led her to spend her precious study time on researching, sewing, and crafting different costumes. As a self-proclaimed "Nerd," she was so excited to have the opportunity to develop and put together costumes for *The Nerds* with the talented members of SCIT. She is also, frankly, alarmed at the sheer amount of her nerdy paraphernalia that made it into the show, and at the sheer amount of paraphernalia she owns in general. Sorry, not sorry!

Rebecca Autumn Sansom Nerd/Thingy/Hillary Clinton

3rd year SCIT veteran

Rebecca believes in digital prophecy, manga, politics, pant suits, pants suit, hair product, Mallrats, comic books, any type of bisque, balloon parades, pied piper, and most notably she believes in orphaned baby space aliens.

Stephen Sansom Dick Gaugetté/Thom Yorke

3rd year PhD, Classics

Finally, SCIT has provided Stephen with a character he can work with. If Dick had a superlative, it would be "Most Likely to Eat Three Pounds BBQ aboard a Yacht with Kayne." With this in mind, stay tuned for Dick's much anticipated forthcoming publication, *(Ad)ventures in BBQ: Funding Slow-Smoked Meats in Silicon Valley*.

Lizzy Ten-Hove Director/Nerd

2nd year PhD, Classics

After a tragic few years marooned on desert islands, tearing people apart with her bare hands, and being trampled to death by horses, Lizzy is excited (and somewhat relieved) to be working on her first Greek comedy. If the whole academia thing doesn't work out, she plans to tour internationally as a full-time Homeric rhapsode. When asked for comment, she flailed her arms, eyes rolling vatically, and chanted: "It is pitch black. You are likely to be eaten by a Grue."

translation team

Matthieu Abgrall, Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne, Thea De Armond, David Driscoll, Anne Duray, Dillon Gisch, Sienna Kang, Ted Kelting, Kate Kreindler, Carolyn MacDonald, Kilian Mallon, Israel McMullin, Santiago Melo Arias, Alyson Melzer, Mark Pyzyk, Stephen Sansom, Alan Sheppard, Ava Shirazi, Lizzy Ten-Hove, and Scott Weiss.

special thanks

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